

OUR OMNIBUS.

PIPER PAN.

The presentation of a testimonial to Lady Hall in celebration of her 50th anniversary in the career of a violinist, and the 25th of her sojourn in this country, is a well-deserved tribute of gratitude to and admiration for one of the greatest artists of the day. The pleasant ceremony took place at Marlborough House in the presence of the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne; Lords Kintore, Suffolk, and Bevelstoke; Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Sir Francis Knollys, Sir Edward Lawson, Mr. Arthur Chappell, Sir George Grove, Canon Duckworth, Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Frederick Cowen, Mr. Alvin Kipley, Mr. Henschel, Professor Herkimer, Mr. Burnand, and many other well-known people.

In deference to Lady Hall's wish, the principal portion of the amount subscribed has been expended on the purchase of a villa at Arola, on the coast of Venice; the remainder of the sum has been laid out in furnishing and renovating it, and in buying a cable containing an address, which was read by the chairman of the Fund Committee. The proceedings terminated with a few well-chosen remarks from the Prince of Wales, who expressed the hope that the great violinist would not forget her English friends in the delights of her happy Italian home.

Report says that Mr. August Manns is exceedingly pleased with the chorus for the first Welsh Festival, which will be held at Cardiff on Monday and Tuesday week. I hear that the veteran conductor predicts that his body of 1,000 picked voices will sing in such a manner that they will be likely to rival the reputation of the Leeds Festival performances.

Before many days have passed all doubt will be settled as to who will be the new Guildhall School organist. On Monday the long list of candidates appeared down to 5, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Thomas, and Dr. Turpin, and out of these the final choice will be made.

At Madame Berthe Moore's concert at Queen's Gate Hall last week, a bright and sparkling little operetta, written by Charles Thomas, and composed by Harriet Young, was performed. The fair concert giver and her charming sister, Miss Decima Moore, took part in the performance of the work, which was most enthusiastically received. Madame Berthe Moore also sang songs by Schumann and Gounod in her usual artistic and refined manner.

I understand that Mr. Edward Lloyd is to receive very big terms for singing at the summer concert at Blackpool and Douglas, Isle of Man, where he intends combining business with his holidays at the end of the London season.

Madame Janotha has written to the American papers to say that the date of Chopin's birth given on the monument erected at Warsaw is erroneous, and that all the musical dictionaries also err in this respect. The famous musician's distinguished cousin, women has authentic knowledge for stating that Chopin was born one year later than the date usually believed.

I see that the Imperial Blue Hungarian Band will give an afternoon concert at Queen's Hall on Tuesday, Cymbal solos, harp solos, and violin solos will be given, and Hungarian cards and "romantic music" are also set down in the programme, the vocalist being Miss Mary Bush.

At the second Richter concert on June 1 Richard Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegel's lustige Streiche" and Dvorak's symphony "Aus der neuen Welt" will be played for the first time at the Richter concert. Brahms' "Tragic" overture and a Wagner section comprise the rest of the evening's programme.

I hear that the Queen's Hall Choral Society purpose giving Saint Saens' "Samson" and Darius in their next season. I remember the oratorio was performed at one of the Covent Garden concerts a few years ago with rather bad results.

Madame Adeline Patti is the highest paid vocalist in the world. She received 1,000g. a night for operatic performances in America. I believe she was given 2500 each time she sang at Covent Garden last season, and that Messrs. Harrison pay her 2500 every time she appears at the Albert Hall.

Herr Felix Mottl has returned to the continent, but will return in time for the last Wagner concert at Queen's Hall on June 11.

Hastings and St. Leonards are able to boast of an excellent orchestral society. At the final concert of the season Schubert's great symphony in C was played by members (in 57 minutes) to an audience of nearly 1,000 persons. The local members of this promising society already number 73.

Madame Symmova has arrived in England, and will give her first concert this season at St. James's Hall on June 9, when she will be assisted by Mons. Adamowski, the accomplished cellist.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

The "Comptes Rendus" of the Biological Society of Paris for May 8 contains an illustration and description of an extraordinary living monster in the shape of a calf with a double head. The head parts just above the eye, and it has 2 mouths, 4 nostrils, and 4 eyes. The calf eats and drinks with either the one or the other of its mouths indifferently. It has only 2 ears, but the preauricular glands on the crown show that horns are forming. The 2 eyes, which are close together, have lost their sight, but the 2 outer ones are perfect. The animal at the time the notes in the above-mentioned journal were written was 10 weeks old, and in the best of health, and it is hoped it will live till it reaches maturity.

Part 31 of the "Royal Natural History," which has just been issued, commences the 6th volume of the work on the insects, including the Hymenoptera, or ants, bees and wasps, the Diptera, or flies, and fleas, and the beginning of the Lepidoptera, or butterflies, and moths. The inclusion of

so much material in so small a space necessarily curtails the descriptions and accounts of these interesting creatures, which is much to be regretted, but taking into consideration that the number of species of insects estimated at 250,000, it is perhaps difficult to know what to include and what to omit, and under the circumstances the authors are to be congratulated on filling up the small space at their command with so much information. The illustrations which in many instances are the different stages of insect life, are numerous and particularly good. The giant swift moth and 4 species of Orthoptera are figured on the 2 coloured plates.

One of the full-page illustrations shows us the curious manner in which the caterpillars of the army worm fly move from one place to another. They congregate into one large mass, measuring sometimes several feet long, and adhering together by their sticky secretions. As the mass moves, the caterpillars in the front gradually disappear by burrowing into the ground.

Some time ago I called attention to this curious mode of progression and the opinion that the caterpillars in congregating together, and assuming a shape somewhat like a large snake, concealed their real identity, and so protected themselves against their enemies. The author of the notes in the "Royal Natural History" thinks the phenomenon is a self-defence, but inclines to the belief that the creatures, when their food supply is getting short in one locality, are seized simultaneously with an impulse to move on and so go en masse to another.

A correspondent of Ashmore-road, Paddington, is in great distress over an adventure he had the other day at Crickwood. On walking along the High-road, he came across a snake lying curled up on the pavement, and as a natural sequence gave it a rap on the head. This proved an alarm bell for a number of rooks, who immediately appeared on the scene, and in a threatening manner demanded compensation for the injury done to their pet snake as they were pleased to call it. My correspondent, who thinks he got off cheaply by handing over a few coppers, asks me to advise him in order to help to prevent others of his kind from being imposed upon in the same way.

Another interpretation has been put upon the habit of rooks demolishing the houses of individuals who build outside the precincts of the rookery, by a correspondent of Ryde, Isle of Wight. He says, "If the rookery is watched when the nests are being built it will be seen that those pairs who build away from the others are the latest thieves in the rookery, and all the other nests of the materials which have been collected by their comrades. This goes on until they are detected, when the other rooks attack them in a body, drive them away, and pull to pieces the nest. I have seen it many times, in fact I think it might be seen in any rookery during every nesting season."

The additions to the Zoological Society's menagerie during the week ending May 19 include a lesser kestrel, 2 Barbary sheep, a black-fronted lemur, a black tortoise, 2 undulated grass parakeets, a grison, a Brazilian tortoise, 2 scorpion mud terrapins, a rough terrapin, a pied rock-krike, 2 whooper swans, a Natal python, 3 Ring-necked snakes, a grey chequered, 4 puff-adders, an Egyptian cobra, 3 Capri snakes, a Cape cobra, 2 internal snakes, a Macaque monkey, and a blue-headed jay.

I have been asked by several of my friends if the gorilla is still alive at the Zoo. I am very pleased to be able to tell them that (at the time of writing) she is alive and present in very good health, and at present in very good health. A short time ago she was suffering from a cold and caused a little uneasiness to the authorities, but this has all passed off, and she, with her cousin Pat, now holds a crowded reception daily in the Apes' House at the gardens. A big field-day is in front of her on Monday, and it is hoped that she will get through it all right. On the last bank holiday some of her visitors made too free with her, and consequently she was rather fatigued at the close of the day, and intimated her displeasure at having to entertain so many.

THE ACTOR.

So we are to see "Julius Caesar" revived in London before long after all. Though Sir Henry Irving is not going to produce it, Mr. Beerbohm Tree is. The news is good. The play is a fine one, and gives fine opportunities to the leading players. I last saw it at Oxford, where it was performed by Mr. H. B. Irving and Mr. Arthur Boucher among its members. Mr. Boucher played Brutus, and Mr. Irving played Caesar. I was satisfied with both performances, though I had then no idea that Messrs. Irving and Boucher would by and by take to the regular stage.

A new play, "The Robert Buchanan and Miss Harriett Jay," is to be produced at Croydon in June, and among those undertaking roles in it will be Miss Kate Roke, Miss Vera Beringer, and Mr. John Beauchamp. The representation will have, practically, the interest attaching to a London first night, and I have no doubt that it will tempt a number of local players down to Croydon, which is within such easy distance by rail. I should not be surprised if Croydon came to be a favourite place for trial performances of plays intended ultimately for London.

It is pleasant to note that we are not to be deprived this year of what we have come to regard as the annual visit of Mme. Bernhardt. Mr. Meyer is once more to the fore in this matter, and it is to him, I believe, that we owe the pleasure of seeing Mme. Bernhardt in the play "The Sign of the Cross." As she is to be with us only a fortnight, she will naturally not produce anything new, but she will present a varied selection from her repertory, including, it is said, "Magda," in which we shall be able to compare her impersonation of the heroine with that of Mrs. Patrick Campbell.

A few days before the great French actress arrives here, Mr. Armand Fry will produce at the Avenue, in the afternoon, his next drama, called "A

Rescued Honour." Mr. Fry is connected with the business management of the Lyric Theatre, and is well known to all first-nighters, and to many other patrons of the drama. He has been so fortunate as to secure for his work the services of Miss Decima Moore, who has before now shown that she can be as successful in drama as in opera. This will be her first appearance since her tour abroad, her return from which was immediately followed by her marriage.

During the last few weeks Miss Olga Netherole has been looking out for a London theatre, at which to give a short series of representations. Various houses have been named by rumour, but the Gaiety is the one finally selected. Here Miss Netherole will appear in the dramatic version of "Carmen," in which she has had so triumphant a success. She begins her London tour on Monday, June 1. The Collingwood Angling Society will support her on this occasion.

My old friend, Mr. T. B. Sachs, although past his years, continues his fishing, and within the last few days has taken pouting and other flat fish from Deal pier. Fishing is improving there, but rain is greatly wanted. Mr. Sachs was the donor of a splendid pin at the Wimbledon tournament, and I am pleased to note that it was awarded to him by the salmon fly casting competition.

The Blackfriars Anglers held their festival at the Winchester Arms, Southwark, on Monday last, when Mr. G. H. W. was president at their annual dinner. A large company assembled, including Dr. Patterson, Mr. E. H. Bramley, Mr. W. T. Galloway, and many other well-known localities. Everything was of the best, and the evening enjoyable throughout. The Blackfriars continue to be a most excellent place for a dinner, but add to their renown.

The Gresham Anglers had a large gathering on Tuesday evening to listen to a clever and well-illustrated lecture on "Reels and Winches," by Mr. E. Eldred, in the course of which all the latest improvements in their manufacture were pointed out. An interesting discussion followed, and Mr. Eldred was heartily thanked for his entertaining paper.

GENERAL CHATTER.

There are times when the London brain-worker finds himself absolutely played out, beyond the restorative power of any drugs. The only remedy lies in dropping toil for a brief while and in seeking recuperation at some quiet country place with a fairly bracing climate and fine tonic properties in the air. Perhaps, then, it may be of interest to readers thus run down if I record some of my own experiences.

I went to Basingstoke, where I stayed in a comfortable house, and in a few days I was feeling much better. The climate was just what I needed, and the scenery was very pleasant. I was able to do a good deal of work, and I was much improved.

From Basingstoke, with its grand old church and its charming little village of Hindon, in the south-west of Salisbury Plain. North and west the rolling downs stretch away to the horizon; south and east the hamlet is bounded by the grand woods and noble parks of Fonthill House and Fonthill Park, which are the most comfortable of country places. The whole neighbourhood is the very perfection of peace and quiet; the only sounds that break the stillness are the twittering of multitudinous birds, the lowing of cattle, and other farmyard noises. And how about quarters? Well, I have pretty good quarters, but I have not yet found a room to my liking. I have been offered a room, but it is not to my liking. I have been offered a room, but it is not to my liking.

Talking of the tournament reminds me that carp fishing is now permissible at Wimbledon Lake, and on Sunday last one of 4lb. was taken, and several smaller ones have come to grief during the week.

The True Waltonian Society have just celebrated their 66th anniversary dinner, and a capital dinner it was. There was "a dish of fish too good for any but anglers or very honest men," and prominent among the toasts was one "To the memory of Isaac Walton." The dinner was held at the Guildhall Tavern, the president (Mr. C. L. W. Fitzgerald) occupying the chair, faced by Mr. C. H. Briand. The whole of the members being true Waltonians, a most enjoyable evening was necessarily spent.

The Social Brothers held their 17th annual dinner last week at the Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, Herne Hill, when some 50 members and friends assembled. Old Isaac among them. Mr. H. Scott Palmer presided, supported by Mr. Harry Grape, Dr. Underhill, Mr. W. S. Harding, and many leading local anglers. The society is undoubtedly flourishing now, and if the sentiments so heartily expressed at the dinner are carried out, will long continue to prosper.

The annual smoking concert and prize distribution of the West London Anglers, held at the Wheatsheaf, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush, proved one of the most notable in the society's history. Space forbids giving details of the somewhat lengthy programme, but I cannot omit to note the presentation of a valuable gold medal to Mr. W. H. Elmore, which he is expected to wear whenever he occupies the chair; and this, I know, the society wish he may long and often do.

Mr. W. H. Beckett, V.P., occupied the chair at the meeting of the Anglers' Association at the Foresters' Hall, on Monday last, when 41 clubs were represented. There was little business to transact, but sandy matters, relative to furthering the proposed river, and the good work of the Thames Angling Preservation Society (who have lately turned several tons of fish into the river), were all dealt with by the delegates. The usual votes were heartily accorded.

Mr. C. Stallibrass ably presided over the meeting of the Piscatorial Society at the Holborn Restaurant on Monday last. Some interesting reports were made by members, and the May fly was stated to be up on the Kent and Essex rivers. Mr. C. Stallibrass, however, was reported, for fish, how was considered the weather was to blame.

Messrs. R. C. Blundell and W. G. Fletcher had each taken a trout on the Lyric Theatre, and is well known to all first-nighters, and to many other patrons of the drama. He has been so fortunate as to secure for his work the services of Miss Decima Moore, who has before now shown that she can be as successful in drama as in opera. This will be her first appearance since her tour abroad, her return from which was immediately followed by her marriage.

The Anchor and Hope dinner comes off on Thursday next at the Woolpack Tavern, Bermondsey-st., and, from what I hear, there is likely to be a grand gathering. The Anchorites support every good cause, and certainly deserve well of the fraternity.

The Collingwood Angling Society announce their first annual supper, to take place at their headquarters, the Rose and Crown, Collingwood-st., on Monday, June 1. The Collingwood is a new and thriving society, and will doubtless be well supported on this occasion.

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tip" as to the best and pleasantest method for reducing your "doctor's" bill. Of course, each person can make his own choice, but the direction in which he will go and where he will stay. This country happily abounds with picturesque scenery, comfortable inns, invigorating air, and tranquil surroundings. Make sure of obtaining these restoratives of health and all the rest is but leather and prussels.

The London season has made a much more brilliant start than when the news of the untimely death of Prince Henry of Battenberg came to hand. West-end tradesmen dolefully predicted a period of bad business, and even, in some instances, cut down their usual orders for goods. But the Queen was determined to do what lay in her power to prevent harm to trade, and being loyally seconded in that endeavour by the rest of the royal family, the black cloud which was lowered over the coming season quickly passed away. I am assured that business up to date has been exceptionally brisk in the more fashionable parts of the metropolis, and whenever that is the case, toilers living in the less fashionable districts benefit by increase of employment.

Peace at any price people scoff at the idea of the British soldier being the pioneer of civilization. It is the fact, all the same; as we are fighting, we are also proceeding to make peace. Thus, in Chitral, potatoes, cabbages, and other eatable vegetables are already largely cultivated by our soldiers, while the natives notice the demand for such commodities, and are likely to turn their hands to gardening as a more profitable and safer industry than looting their neighbours.

The blouse bodice continues in the forefront of fashion as a matter of moment amongst the modes of the day. Indeed, we have grown to look upon it as indispensable to our comfort in winter. In many, its faults few, and I fail to perceive the slightest sign of its decline in favour. True, there are blouses and blouses. It is not easy to admire the cheap, ill-fitting ready-made blouses that are turned out by the 100 with mass, and of inferior material. They are cheap, but they are not worth the money. Now, by not paying too penny more for it, if you make it from a good pattern, you can have a really pretty stylish-looking blouse of nice material.

I looked over a goodly number of the latest fashions in blouses this week, hoping by a description of some of them to supply my readers with helpful suggestions. Coloured muslin, patterned either with a floral design or small worked spots, makes up charmingly for summer blouses. I greatly enjoyed a blouse of mauve muslin patterned with tiny pansy sprays. It is made with a deep yoke composed of small gathered frills, with a band of cream lace insertion defining the edge of the yoke, the same trimming being continued at intervals up to the throat.

The lower part of the blouse is set to the yoke with a cluster of full gathers in the centre of the front and a corresponding cluster of gathers in the centre of the back. The blouse is arranged at the waist to be worn underneath the skirt with a soft folded ribbon band fastening at one side with a full rosette bow. The sleeves have full drooping tops, with close-fitting under-sleeves. The under-sleeves I thought specially pretty. They are made to match the yoke with gathered frills and bands of lace. The blouse is made of folded ribbon with a smart bow at the back.

A pretty blouse in soft pink silk, patterned with narrow black lines, and a band of cream lace at the waist, gave a full appearance to the lower part of the blouse. A short flared basque was added at the waist; this could be worn or not as desired. The sleeves have the new shaped puff to the little above the elbow. From this point the sleeves fit closely to the arm, the wrist being finished with a frill of black lace. The removable basque is intended as a finish to the waist for out-of-door wear. A black lace or chiffon ruffle may be worn at the neck.

An exquisite blouse to wear at any dressy function is of deep string-coloured green lawn, made with a fitted bodice, slightly full front, and short flared basque. The front of the blouse is embroidered in a flowery pattern with iridescent beads and small sequins. The sleeves have long shaped cuffs ending in plain-finished under-trimmes. A band of beaded embroidery trims the wrists. The neck is finished with a full ruffle of satin ribbon and lace pleated together. The waistband is of folded satin, with a looped bow and short ends.

Before passing to the evening blouse, I must give you one more for the afternoon. It is of soft silk in the new purple shade that tones with delicate mauve. The blouse is made over a fitted muslin lining, and is cut in one with a short full basque. The silk is covered with a pattern of small, deep rich pleated folds, the same folds being continued in the basque. The front of the blouse as far as the bust is of mousseline de soie in a lovely shade of pale mauve; soft puffs running downwards have rows of lace insertion between.

The sleeves fit tightly to the arms, and are trimmed with bands of lace insertion at intervals. Two long delicate frills form a becoming finish to the shoulders. Each frill is as well as the basque is trimmed with a band of lace insertion. The pale mauve front of soft mousseline de soie looks lovely in the deep rich purple shade of the silk. I also saw this blouse in dark green silk, with a front of pale blue chiffon and black lace. The effect was fine.

The evening blouse as we have it now is indeed a thing of beauty. I must tell you of an evening blouse composed of soft black chiffon trimmed with creamy lace. The chiffon was gathered very full over a black silk lining. The neck was cut semi-low, 4 fluffy frills of black chiffon edged with narrow cream lace were placed closely one over the other from the edge of the low-cut neck to a little below the bust; bell-shaped sleeves reaching to the elbows were entirely composed of lace-edged chiffon frills; a cherry-coloured waistband of soft black ribbon ribbon tied in front with a looped bow.

Another dainty evening blouse is composed of soft puffs of white chiffon

over deep yellow silk. The short puffed sleeves are of yellow brocade, trimmed with a lace frill. By the way, yellow in every imaginable shade, from palest primrose to deepest orange colour, is immensely fashionable, and is very becoming to brunettes. It looks lovely in black. Any of the blouses I have described could be easily made at home by taking a little care and trouble.

MR. WHEELER.

The Commissioner of Police for London has issued a code of regulations to be observed by cyclists in the City. They embody nothing new, and certainly nothing to be cavilled against, simply drawing attention to the rules in regard to lamp-lighting, ringing bells, &c., with which we are all so familiar, and to which nobody will be disposed to object. One or two of the details by the way, have been left in pouring forth a great deal of unnecessary gush in regard to an accident that happened recently in Bishopsgate-st. The spill referred to was entirely unavoidable. A tandem was travelling behind a dog when the horse attached to the latter suddenly slipped and fell, with the result that the bicyclist collided with the back of the vehicle, which, of course, stopped dead, and one of the cyclists in falling injured himself somewhat severely.

An invention that has been put upon the market lately deserves the attention of such tourists, at least, as have any intention of riding on the continent at any future date. It takes the form of a "soap book," and is a tiny volume, the size of a leaf of soap, just sufficient to be used once. As many readers are probably aware, travellers on the continent are often non-plussed to find themselves expected to carry their own soap, and since the commodity is not at all times agreeably adapted to transportation, this latest idea should command success. It is undoubtedly an ingenious one.

It has come to be the general practice to look upon the bicycle as having attained perfection, and being in need of further improvement. But if the machine itself is undoubtedly a thing of beauty and a joy for a considerable period, the same cannot be said of some of its adjuncts, and the rider who is in possession, for instance, of what he can conscientiously call a satisfactory saddle, is not to be met every day. There is something radically wrong about the manufacture of too many of the saddles at present on the market, and the inventor who can remedy this state of affairs will certainly be hailed as a benefactor to his kind.

The tyre loves to have fitted to his machine every accessory he has ever heard of, and when he possesses the means to satisfy his craving for meters, speed-registers, &c., use it. Amongst other things, he is exceedingly partial to toe-clips. But he very rarely understands the use of them. The clip should always be adjusted in such a position that the toe of the rider's shoe will not approach nearer to the pedal than an inch. For the clip is meant rather to catch the foot in case of the pedal being missed than to be directly pushed against, and to use it in this latter style is to cultivate an incorrect mode of riding that interferes with ankle action, and therefore both comfort and speed.

In what way does it pay the cycle manufacturer to retain a salaried staff of riding men—pure amateurs and pros? I have often wondered. The public by this time knows a great deal too much to be deceived by the belief that the best machine is of necessity the best. We have not heard of Humber and Co.'s appearance in the Bankruptcy Court since they dropped the practice. It is no longer a great advertisement for a mount that and-so, the champion. The public knows quite well that there are quite different makes of machines, equally as good, one as another, and that he is quite prepared and able to win on any of them. And yet the practice is continued on all sides. It is certain that the firm to abjure it would find its expenses considerably less at the end of the year than they have been under the old conditions. The question is, then, whether the profits consequent upon the advertisement secured through the medium of the racing man are such as to more than cover the extra outlay. I scarcely think it is always so. And meanwhile the rider makes hay while the sun shines.

The long spell of dry weather has had the effect of rendering the roads not only uncomfortably dusty, but also, what is worse, so exceedingly rough that one hears of punctured tyres everywhere. That power in the land, the cyclist, it is to be feared, is somewhat difficult to please, and to hear him expressing his hope that it will rain, and that speedily, who is so generally imagined a lover of anything but rain, is, perhaps, somewhat astonishing to those who have nothing of wheeling, and the conditions essential to the pleasurable pursuit of it. It is only that one can have too much of a good thing. Such weather as has been experienced lately is very enjoyable, but there comes a time when its continuation makes the roads, and the highways become flinty, and much of the pleasure is taken away from cycling.

Mr. Avila Tringham, the well-known bicycle oil man, has forwarded some samples of his leading specialties brought well up to date. If they are as good as my former supplies, as no doubt they will prove to be, no better oils, whether for lubricating or for lighting, are obtainable. The "Nigger Black Liquid Enamel" is also an excellent article.

Lord Salisbury will spend the recess at Hatfield; while Lord Rosebery has gone on a tour. He will be away 3 weeks, and will first visit Gibraltar.

"A CASE"—ALL who are afflicted with nervous debility, impaired vitality, diseases of the kidneys or prostate gland, gravel, pains in the back and limbs, or any derangement of the urinary organs, will find in the "Nigger Black Liquid Enamel" a guaranteed remedy. Discovered in Old Mexico. To introduce the remedy into England, good efforts will be made by the undersigned. Write to "JOSEPH BARNES & CO., Broomfield Mansions, Broomfield-square, London-West" for particulars.

WANTED—A POEM.

I've called upon you, poet, not to go in raptures over your verse, or say, "To tell the truth, I'm very little turned out for writing, though I've often heard folks say, 'You sing so sad and sweet you almost make me cry.'"

The heart in love with sorrow, is it so? Well, then, from me maybe you'll deign to take. An order for a poem. Do you know That the world says that you have known of pain— Like all true poets bought your fame with tears?

That you have ever been the tender strain That waxes from off the heart the soil of years, And makes it dream of youth and hope again? And so I thought that I would come to you To ask if you would write a song for me. No lofty burst of classic melody, But something touching, simple, sweet, and true.

Such songs as lift the heart its cares above, You are a poet, and you know full well All that these faltering words of mine would tell. Its name? Well, call it just a mother's love. Here is the picture, paint it with your words, So that my heart the tints will recognize, And I can almost hear the song of birds, And see the blue grey gleams of mountain sides.

And, oh, if you can only bring again The faith, the hopes, the tears—but there, you know. All, all of youth, then I will sing your strain, And with your praise where'er my footsteps go. As a great singer with a greater heart, Take words and fields, and unto them impart The first faint breath of autumn. You must throw The changing mantle of a sunset glow O'er all, gold grain and scarlet poppy flower, Green vales and misty mountains purple ring, And you manage in the scene to bring The Sabbath hush that hails the sunset hour?

And there must be a distant sound of song From hidden birds and gurgling mountain rills. An old house, too, quaint, homely, low, and long, Which looks towards those far off purple hills. A garden at the side—a garden wild, Lit up with gleams of quaint old-fashioned flowers. But, poet, bring your best, your noblest powers To show her at her sweetest when she comes For 'mid the flowers a lady there must be, With earnest face and deep and steadfast eye, Not young, not beautiful, yet fair to see, For on her brow the light of truth must lie.

But, poet, if you'll only show to me The look which ever in those eyes was seen— What'er my faults and failings—perfect faith Through clouds and sunshine, ay, and even 'e'en in death— Then you may leave blue hills and vales of green, And all the joys that youth had called his. And in the picture paint that face alone. KAT BEE.

The dock labourers on strike at Rotterdam resolved this week by 1,182 against 431 votes to resume work. A large tug sank in the Binger Loch rapids, on the Rhine, in consequence of the boiler exploding. Two loaded barges which were being towed at the time went down. Eight persons were killed outright, and a considerable number severely injured.

RIDING SCHOOL AND CYCLES. "CYCLEDOM" IS TO BE BLACK FRIDAY—ROAD, RACE, WEST-END DEPOT, KILBY, ROAD, SPORTS, &c. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16,

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THE WHITEWILDS MEETING

Will take place To-morrow and Next Day,
WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY,
May 24th and 25th.

FIRST RACE at 2.30 p.m.

ADMISSION TO THE PARK, ONE SHILLING.
CHEAP STAND, COVERED IN, 2s. 6d.

ment Trains from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, and other Stations as advertised.

LONDON and BACK.
INCLUDING ADMISSION,
2s. 6d.
(No Admission, 1s. 6d. RAIL FARE).

KINEOPTIKON.
GREAT ATTRACTIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS
AT FOGGADILL HOUSE
(Two Doors from Cafe Montec).

entirely new series of ANIMATED PHOTO-PLAYS, and a February 1905 edition of the London Express, giving extraordinary and interesting others all in life-like motion, half-price 2s 6d and from 7s to 10s 3d. Constant Editions. **ADMISSION SIXPENCE.**

RAILWAY AND STEAMBOAT ARRANGEMENTS.

For arrangements of the Railway and Steamboat Companies running out of London will be found on page 6.

NEW ISSUES.

The Prospectures of the Rio Grande Irrigation and Land Company, Limited, and the London Electric Omnibus Company, Limited, will be found on page 12.

NOTICE.
EXT WEEK we shall begin the publication of an extremely interesting account by Mr. B. DRAKEMAN of his personal experiences in French gaols. The facts he puts in evidence will create no little surprise among those who have got to believe that French prisons are much more "humane" in their methods than our own. The narrative is, we believe, entirely trustworthy, and may be accepted as a faithful picture of the system it so graphic.

The People.
Offices: MILFORD-LANE, STRAND, W.C.
"IN THE MIDDLE ORDER OF HANKING
ARE GENERALLY TO BE FOUND ALL
THE ARTS, WISDOM, AND VIRTUE OF
SOCIETY. THIS ORDER ALONE IS
KNOWN TO BE THE TRUE PRESERVER
OF FREEDOM, AND MAY BE CALLED
"THE PEOPLE."—*Vicar of Wake-*
field, chap. 19.
IN KRUGER'S GRIP.

Official intelligence has now been received as to the punishment which the Boer Government intends to inflict upon the Johannesburg prisoners. Of these there are—apart from the four gentlemen who were sentenced to death—fifty-eight, the fifty-ninth, Mr. Grey, having gone mad and committed suicide in consequence of the anxiety caused by his position. Nine of the prisoners are to be released at once; 19 after 3 months' imprisonment; and 4 after 5 months. In the case of 18 others their request for pardon may be renewed after 5 months' imprisonment; while 4 more must be kept in jail for a year before such application

can be made. Four more yet remain, whose case has not been considered because they have refused to petition for pardon. As to the 4 principal offenders the death penalty has been commuted to 15 years' imprisonment; but Sir Hercules Robinson is satisfied that the decision is merely formal. Sir Hercules is easily satisfied—more easily, by a long way, than public opinion will be, either in this country or in South Africa, unless President Kruger loses no time in assuring the world that these gentlemen will not be left to rot for years in a Boer gaol as the penalty for having endeavoured to obtain the rights of citizenship which have been refused them. In the mean-

persistently denied them. At the same time it is as well to know the object of the extraordinary procedure adopted by the Boer Government in the matter of the prisoners in general. That object is pretty plain. By telling a large proportion of the prisoners to apply for pardon at certain intervals, but not before, President Kruger evidently means to hold them as hostages for the performance by the British Government of the conditions which he wishes to impose upon this country. And what are those conditions? They, too, are not difficult to divine. In the first place, Mr. Kruger desires the punishment of Mr. Rhodes and the destruction of the Chartered Co. He

knows that no greater blow to British interests could be inflicted, and no more effectual impulse to the establishment of Dutch ascendancy could be given than by the accomplishment of that double vengeance. But that, after all, is the less important of the two ends which the Boer President has in view. For years past the Boers have been aiming at the abolition of the British Suzerainty contained in the 4th clause of the Treaty of London. It was because Mr. Chamberlain would not discuss any modification of that clause that President Kruger refused to visit England. And now he, doubtless, means to hold the Johannesburg Congress until he is able to

burg prisoners as hostages
enabled to proclaim the absolute inde-

pendence of the Transvaal, and therefore, the right, which at present the Boers do not possess, of making treaties with foreign Powers other than the Orange Free State. Germany is watching and waiting for the moment to come, and is, meanwhile, doing all she can to strengthen her force in South Africa. Shall the British Government play into the hands of the Boers by granting the inevitable request for the abolition of the British suzerainty? Englishmen, worthy of their name and race, will unanimously answer, "Never." But what if that answer has to be enforced at the sword's point? What are England's military resources in South Africa by comparison with those of the Boers? The answer is obvious. We have, practically, no troops in South Africa at all, and President Kruger can do what he likes. The plain English of the matter is that an army corps on the Transvaal frontier is the only argument to which the Boers will listen. But, for the time being, the British Government, like the Johannesburg prisoners, is in President Kruger's grip.

ROYAL EXCHANGE STATUE OF THE QUEEN.

Yesterday the preparations for the erection of the statue of the Queen in the centre of the Royal Exchange. The delay in the erection of the statue has been due to the death of the celebrated sculptor Boehm, to whom the commission was originally given, and to the great difficulty experienced by Mr. Thomas Crawford in obtaining a block of marble of once large enough and free from flaws and blemishes.

THE BLACKWELL TUNNEL.

Holiday makers will have an opportunity to-morrow of inspecting the Blackwell Tunnel, one of the most marvellous engineering feats of the century. The tunnel, which is now nearly completed, was commenced in March, 1892, and is considerably over a mile in length. No fewer than 20,000 tons of metal have been used in this immense undertaking, and although some 500 men have been constantly employed, no fatal accident has occurred. In the construction of the tunnel proper, the tunnel-boring machine will find the work in very far advanced, and it is now in a much more interesting state for a visit than it will be when everything is finished. Now all the vast machinery necessary for its construction is on view and in working order. The proceeds will be given to the Seamen's Hospital Society.

WHITSUNTIPE RAILWAY STATION SCENES.

The scenes at the various metropolitan railway termini yesterday were in many respects remarkable. From an early hour all trains were crowded, and it was not until midnight that the last had been despatched. Although enormous, the traffic was not, in the opinion of Mr. Rowed, stationmaster at Paddington, equal to that of last Whitsuntide, owing to the holiday this year being 10 days earlier, and the great number of the other. Most of the traffic managers of the other companies agreed in this opinion, but at the same time the passengers carried are said to be far in advance of any Whitsuntide except 1895. These bound westward found plenty of accommodation provided by the W.R. and Paddington Station was the scene of the departure of thousands of happy holiday-makers in the lovely Devonshire lands or by the romantic Cornish coast. The trains were exceedingly heavy. A noteworthy feature of the summer holiday traffic is the fact that the Flying Dutchman, which left Farnham at 11.45 a.m., consisted of 17 carriages, and was the longest train ever sent out of Paddington. At 4.30 a very heavy special was run to Bristol for the convenience of the Order of Oddfellows, and the last special train to leave was that for Swansea, Cardiff, and Newport at 12.25 this morning. The Plymouth, Lifford, and Channel Island traffic was also exceptionally heavy. At Victoria both the L.B. and S.C. and the C. and D. stations were crowded, and the great number of the first-named C. and D. trains for Eastbourne, Hastings, Worthing, and Brighton were all crowded, and had to be delayed. The continental traffic via Newhaven and Dieppe was also great. A noteworthy feature of this season is the great number of bicycles, which, during part of the afternoon, could be counted by hundreds. The C. and D. Station was also very busy, and from the numbers of children armed with spears and pails it was evident that Whitsuntide is for many families the beginning of the summer holidays at Bournemouth. The scene was also enlivened by the departure of the 3rd Middlesex Artillery Volunteers for Sheerness. The 2.5 for Home Bay, the 3.25, or "Granville Express," the 5.33, and the 7 o'clock trains were among the heaviest of the day, but all were despatched without hitch. The Victoria portion of the "Granville" was sent in duplicate, as was also the Holborn Viaduct part, and both at the latter station, St. Paul's, and Ludgate Hill, matters were very lively all day.

AT THE NORTHERN TERMINI.

London, St. Pancras, and King's Cross, the officials were kept busy at work. At Euston the stationmaster (Mr. Jupp) stated that in spite of the demands upon their resources they had been able to keep time all day. Most of the trains had to be run in duplicate, and even in this case they were so crowded that they were powerful engines. This C. and D. traffic was quite up to the level of last year. Yesterday's work began before daybreak, excursions being sent off to Scotland and N. Wales, and the last excursion to leave Euston was the 11.50 right through to Scotland. This train runs the 175 miles from London to Crewe without stopping even for water. At St. Pancras the M.C. holiday traffic was, in the opinion of the stationmaster, heavier than last year, great numbers of people being carried to Scotland, Manchester, and other places. The G. N. Co. look upon the Whitsuntide holidays as less important from a traffic point of view than those of Xmas, and Easter. The trains to Scotland, however, were crowded, and on the whole an

INCREASE IN THE PASSENGERS.

carriage was anticipated. The S.E. stations at Cannon and Charing-cross were very busy indeed, heavy trains being despatched to the coast towns, Tunbridge Wells and other resorts; while Waterloo Station was thronged by crowds of holiday-makers, many of whom were bound for the upper reaches of the Thames. The L. and S.W. also conveyed great numbers of people to the West of England and the Channel Islands. Liverpool-st. Station will be at its busiest to-morrow, when the holiday-makers flock to Coping Forest, but, in addition to the ordinary Saturday traffic, the seaside and continental service of the G. E. Co. was much beyond the average of previous years.

TALK OF THE PEOPLE.

The all-night sitting, which was prolonged until 1.30 on Friday afternoon, was by no means a record. After all, it only lasted 22 hours, while the famous sitting in 1881, when Mr. Forster's Coercion Act was before the House, occupied over 41 hours. I believe, however, that so many divisions have never been taken in the same period of time before. There were 36 in all, and nearly 10 hours of the 22 were taken up in walking through the division lobbies. Members who conscientiously went through the whole thing must have walked several miles in the course of the night.

Of course, the action of the Radicals was pure, unadulterated obstruction, and cannot be defended on any reasonable grounds. Over and over again they repeated the same stale argument, that they were trying to do anything except waste time. Irritating though this was, I am bound to say that all through the weary struggle the most perfect good temper prevailed on both sides. Even when Sir William Harcourt was thundering out those denunciations of the Government which the Tories in the House had his tongue in his cheek, and everybody felt that it was only his fun.

Nevertheless, his participation in the row is an omen of bad days to come. Hitherto, open and avowed obstruction has been left to the free-lancers, and the front opposition bench, whenever it happened to occur, it has been kept out of these manoeuvres. The obstruction of last week was, however, not merely actively supported by Sir William Harcourt, but was regularly planned and arranged by himself and the other leaders of the Opposition. It is a disgraceful state of things, and utterly unworthy of the House of Commons. It is not absurd that the state of an important bill should be made to depend upon which side can keep out of bed the longer, and whether there are enough poached eggs in the kitchen for the supporters of the Government to keep body and soul together with?

I have very little doubt that the same tactics will be tried upon the Education Bill, and the prospect is really too awful. If they are, the Government will have to take strong measures at once or else they cannot possibly pass it at all. Nobody wants to suppress real discussion, but it cannot be pretended that fair debate will suffer if obstruction is resorted to. Indeed, obstruction is the greatest of all enemies to free speech, and I, for one, most heartily hope that the Government will "compartment" the Education Bill as soon as ever it comes on, and nip the design of the Opposition in the bud.

There ought to be some way of punishing those who, like the five members suspended on Friday morning, defy the authority of the Speaker. After all Parliament is a place where serious business has to be done—not a mere debating club—and it is ridiculous that the only punishment that can be inflicted upon offending members is that they do not feel in the least. The suspension of Mr. Lloyd George and his friends is, in the present case, a mere farce. They are only suspended for a week, and as the House does not meet again till June 9 their suspension has no real effect at all. If Mr. Speaker were armed with the same powers of committal for contempt that an ordinary judge of the High Court has, Mr. Lloyd George and his like would very quickly subside.

The Agricultural Rating Bill notwithstanding, I am afraid that a wheat field will soon be almost as rare a sight in England as a sugar plantation. From the official figures now published, it appears that the one-half of land upon which wheat is grown has taken place in the past year. It is all very well to say that the farmer must accept the situation, and go in for nothing but pasture. But what about the labourer? Turning corn-growing land into pasture means a falling half, at least, of the one-half of the wheat field, and if some really effective step is not taken soon, the country districts will be almost depopulated.

Almost every day news comes of some further advance in Russian progress towards our Indian frontier, which has been so surprisingly quickened during the past few months. The object of the advance is pretty plain. Russia expects that she will be in a condition to deal finally with the Turk in a comparatively short time; and she hopes before that time comes to be in a position to so effectively menace us in the direction of Constantinople, that India as to prevent our interfering in the direction towards India clearly means that the day is not far distant when the Eastern question, with all its perils, will once more be reopened. Probably it is only the coronation of the Czar that delays it now.

I have never been able to understand the desire to rise in the world by means of the Eiffel Tower, and great wheels. Personally, I am perfectly certain that I should throw myself overboard if I had got 100 yards from the ground, and it is wonderful to me to see how general the desire to hang between earth and heaven seems to be. The pleasure must have palled a little upon even the most enthusiastic when it was drawn out through the length of a cold May night, as it was on Thursday at Earl's Court. I don't suppose the accident is likely to occur again, or that anybody who would otherwise have gone up will stay at the bottom because of it. I only lay down on the ground, to which I am ready to propose, in due form before any commissioner of oaths, or other person appointed to receive affidavits. Whether the wheel stops again, or goes on rolling till its passengers are turned into human squirrels, one of them will not be.

Catherine Taylor, 27, of St. George's passage, Southwark, left home yesterday afternoon for Waterloo Station, to visit a man with whom she had been living. Soon afterwards P.C. 263 L. heard of a disturbance in Waterloo-road, and, on going to the spot, found that Taylor was suffering from severe injuries. She was taken to St. Thomas's Hospital, where it was found that her leg was fractured, as she alleged by the man she had met.

LATEST ELECTRIC FLASHES.

H.M. gunboat, *Locksley*, which left Sheerness on Thursday for Scotland, returned yesterday for repairs. Her foremast having been broken in a sale at Harwich.

The Queen sent a special messenger yesterday to make inquiry as to Sir Russell Reynolds' condition. Last evening the distinguished patient was stated to be much worse than in the morning.

The improvements at Boulton Lock were completed yesterday, and the new railway connecting the boat-slips was opened. The first boat conveyed was one in which was Capt. Rhodes, a brother of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, and a ladie.

Some builders were engaged in turning the old Medical Association's Rooms at Warwick into an Oddfellows' Hall, when the whole front of the building collapsed, bringing down the scaffolding. Fortunately, at the time, only 2 men were on it, and both miraculously escaped serious injury.

The annual "Flower" sermon will be preached at the Church of St. Katherine Cree, Leadenhall-street, E.C., on Tuesday evening, the flowers brought by the congregation being afterwards given to various institutions for the sick. St. Katherine's is full of historic associations, having been rebuilt by Hugo Jones, and consecrated by the unfortunate Lord when Bishop of London.

FOREIGN.

The Khedive will start on a cruise in the Archipelago about the middle of June.

The last of the transports conveying Indian troops to Suakin sailed from Bombay yesterday.

A Pretoria telegram says that 2 other Reformers have been discharged, but names are not given.

The Pope has decided to hold a consistory in the last week of June, for the appointment of cardinals.

An explosion of fire-damp has occurred in the Koscizka (Hungary) coal mine. Thirty men seriously injured have been brought out.

The fire commissioners of New York city have decided not to allow a team of their men to proceed to London to take part in the projected firemen's tournament.

Contracts have been awarded for the construction of the Royal College for Women at Montreal. The cost, estimated at 2,000,000 dol., will be defrayed by Sir D. Smith.

Herr Friedmann, formerly director of the Rhenish-Westphalian Bank, who was arrested at Barmen last week for forgery, has been extradited to Germany.

The Chinese Government is about to establish an Imperial Bank under the control of the Revenue Board, which will provide a capital of 10,000,000 taels.

A luncheon will be given by the Kaiser and Empress at noon to-day at the New Palace, Potsdam, in honour of Queen Victoria's birthday, to which the members of the British Embassy have been invited.

The performance of Rubinstein's musical drama "Christ," which Herr Lowe (Breslau) superintended at Bremen last year, has been forbidden by the Prussian authorities on the ground of prohibiting the representation of the Saviour in public entertainments.

THE AMERICAN MARKETS.

New York, May 23.—The stock market was strong on purchases for both cash and on credit. The market was buoyant, and the special features. Closing prices irregular, at fractional net gains. The day's business amounted to 83,000 shares. Imports into New York during the week amounted in value to 9,979,266 dol., including dry goods, 1,526,680 dol., according to the "Financial Chronicle," the gross earnings of 62 roads during the second week of May were 5,883,777 dol., an increase of 236,917 dol.; and those of 82 roads during the first week of May were 6,150,354 dol., an increase of 514,263 dol. Corn opened steady, and closed easy. Lard cash market dull. Coffee opened easier, and closed barely steady. 10 to 25 points down; spot dull. Sugar firm and unchanged. Tin quiet. Iron quiet. Copper firm and rising. Flour quiet. Wheat opened firm and 4c. down, and reaction followed, due to reports regarding the crop. Cotton opened steady, and 1 to 2 points higher, on stronger Liverpool advices, and closed steady, 1 to 3 points down for near months, and unchanged to 2 points up for new crop; spot easy; current week's receipts at ports are estimated at 200,000 bales. Petroleum, refined, dull. Chicago: Wheat opened firm, and 4c. higher; spot closed easy, 4c. to 4c. up. Corn closed steady, at 4c. decline. Pork closed firm, 5 to 7 1/2 points up. Lard closed firm, and 5 to 7 1/2 points higher. Bacon steady.

New York, May 23.—Call money, United States Government Bonds, 2 per cent.; Call money, other securities, 2 per cent.; Exchange on London, 4.85; Exchange on Paris, 60 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Berlin, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Buenos Aires, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Calcutta, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Hong Kong, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Shanghai, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Yokohama, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Manila, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Cebu, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Singapore, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Batavia, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Surabaya, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Medan, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Palembang, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Sumatra, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Java, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Celebes, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Moluccas, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Sulu, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Mindanao, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Philippines, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Iloilo, 100 Days' Sight, 150; Ditto Zamboanga, 100 Days' Sight, 150; 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